

state of California. Throughout his time as a senior leader at Kaiser Permanente, Steve has been a strong and consistent public voice within the industry for comprehensive health reform. An article he co-authored in the journal *Health Affairs* in 2006 with Kaiser Permanente leaders George Halvorson and Dr. Jay Crosson served as a model for the exciting, if ultimately unsuccessful effort to enact health reform in California during the legislative session in 2008. The efforts in California demonstrated the potential to bring together health care providers, health plans, businesses, labor unions and consumers in support of comprehensive health reform legislation that could improve both the functioning of health markets and the quality of care, and at the same time help subsidize coverage for those who cannot afford it. The progress made in California, along with the success of reform in Massachusetts and strong efforts in other states, no doubt contributed important momentum necessary to achieve health care reform in this Congress.

As the critical effort to implement national health reform moves forward, we will need industry leaders like Steve to help their organizations and policymakers focus on the tasks at hand—to continuously improve quality and to successfully extend affordable coverage to the millions who currently don't have access to it.

Madam Speaker, we would like to offer the heartfelt thanks of the health policy community for Steve Zarkin's key leadership over many years, and our warmest congratulations on his well-deserved retirement.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAREDO COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company's 100th year in operation. The Coca-Cola Bottling Company has provided Coca-Cola bottled products to the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas and the Laredo community for 100 years. This bottling company has accomplished a century of service to our community throughout the years.

In 1899, Joseph B. Whitehead and Benjamin F. Thomas convinced The Coca-Cola Company that Coke should be sold in bottles, not just as a fountain drink. A few years later, in 1910, the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company was established by Samuel N. "Silas" Johnson with an initial purchase of 51 gallons of syrup from The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia. The first address for the company was 2202 Montezuma Street. In the early years, bottling equipment was hand and foot-operated, and one hard-working employee could bottle 200 cases in 10 hours of work.

In 1930, Samuel N. Johnson Jr. assumed ownership of the family bottling company and beer distributorship following the death of his father. Following the civic lead of his father, Samuel N. Johnson Jr. believed in the city of Laredo's potential to grow and prosper through innovation and team work.

Samuel N. Johnson Jr. ran the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company until his death in

1962. Under the terms of his will, the Company was held in a trust for two years and subsequently purchased by siblings Betsy Johnson Gill and Samuel N. Johnson, III, in 1964. Lamar Gill, Betsy Johnson Gill's husband, who was from a Coca-Bottling family in Beeville, Texas, took charge of the Company as president and manager; Betsy Johnson Gill served as vice-president; and Sam Johnson III served as president and sole owner of the S.N. Johnson Distributor and secretary-treasurer of the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

In 1973, plans were made to relocate the plant to North Laredo, moving the production end of the company in 1974 and the office in 1975 to the Del Mar Industrial Park—where the company still resides at 1402 Industrial Boulevard. On December 15, 1992, the company was sold to Coca-Cola Enterprises, and Tino Villarreal was appointed general manager, a position he still holds today.

Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company has a long history of giving back to the community by supporting a variety of organizations and events throughout the area. The Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company currently has 98 employees and delivers beverages to more than 2,700 customers in four counties, covering 5,206 square miles. Many of the details of how the bottling business is run have changed greatly over the last century. From one package and one brand to more than 200 brands and 500 packages, the company now offers a portfolio of products that promotes total hydration and an active lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have the time to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company. The Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company is celebrating 100 years of service for our community and continuing its mission for South Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 376 on H. Con. Res. 288, rollcall No. 377 on H. Res. 546, and rollcall No. 378 on H. Res. 1407, I am not recorded because I was attending the funeral service of a fallen soldier in my district, Army SPC Brian M. Anderson, who was killed in action while serving his country in Afghanistan. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three resolutions.

ROBERT A. TAFT MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of Robert A. Taft Middle School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. After undergoing a very selective application and interview process, Robert A. Taft Middle School received the distinct

honor of being named one of the "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. For accomplishing an extraordinary feat and exerting remarkable efforts, Robert A. Taft Middle School will receive recognition at a gala dinner during the Schools to Watch Annual Conference. This prestigious event will take place in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, June 24, 2010.

The "Schools to Watch" program honors middle schools that exemplify exceptional performance in education. This rigorous program was developed in 1999 by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. To date, there are eighteen States that participate in this national initiative. Candidates for the "Schools to Watch" program must demonstrate four main criteria: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure. The middle schools that are chosen for the "Schools to Watch" program exceed these standards.

Robert A. Taft Middle School provides education to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in the Crown Point, Cedar Lake, and Winfield communities in Indiana. In recent years, Robert A. Taft Middle School implemented a program involving innovative educational techniques which made significant contributions to the school's success. Important factors of the new program include interdisciplinary teams that allow staff to create personalized environments, flexible schedules to ensure comprehension, and team planning and preparation periods that provide students with high-quality teachers and learning opportunities. Additionally, the implementation of the "Creating a Safe School" anti-bullying effort made Robert A. Taft Middle School an even stronger candidate for this prestigious honor.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Robert A. Taft Middle School faculty, staff, and students, as well as Principal Michael Hazen, on being named one of the "Schools to Watch" for 2010. The dedication exhibited by the school and the community serves to inspire us and to encourage other schools across the Nation. It is my honor to have been given this opportunity to recognize such a supreme middle school, and I am honored to have Robert A. Taft Middle School in my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, I was absent and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 376–378. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.